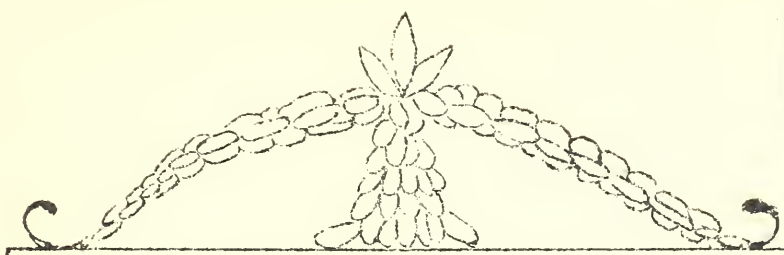
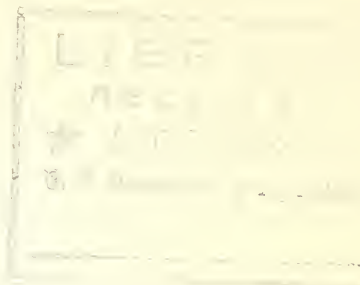


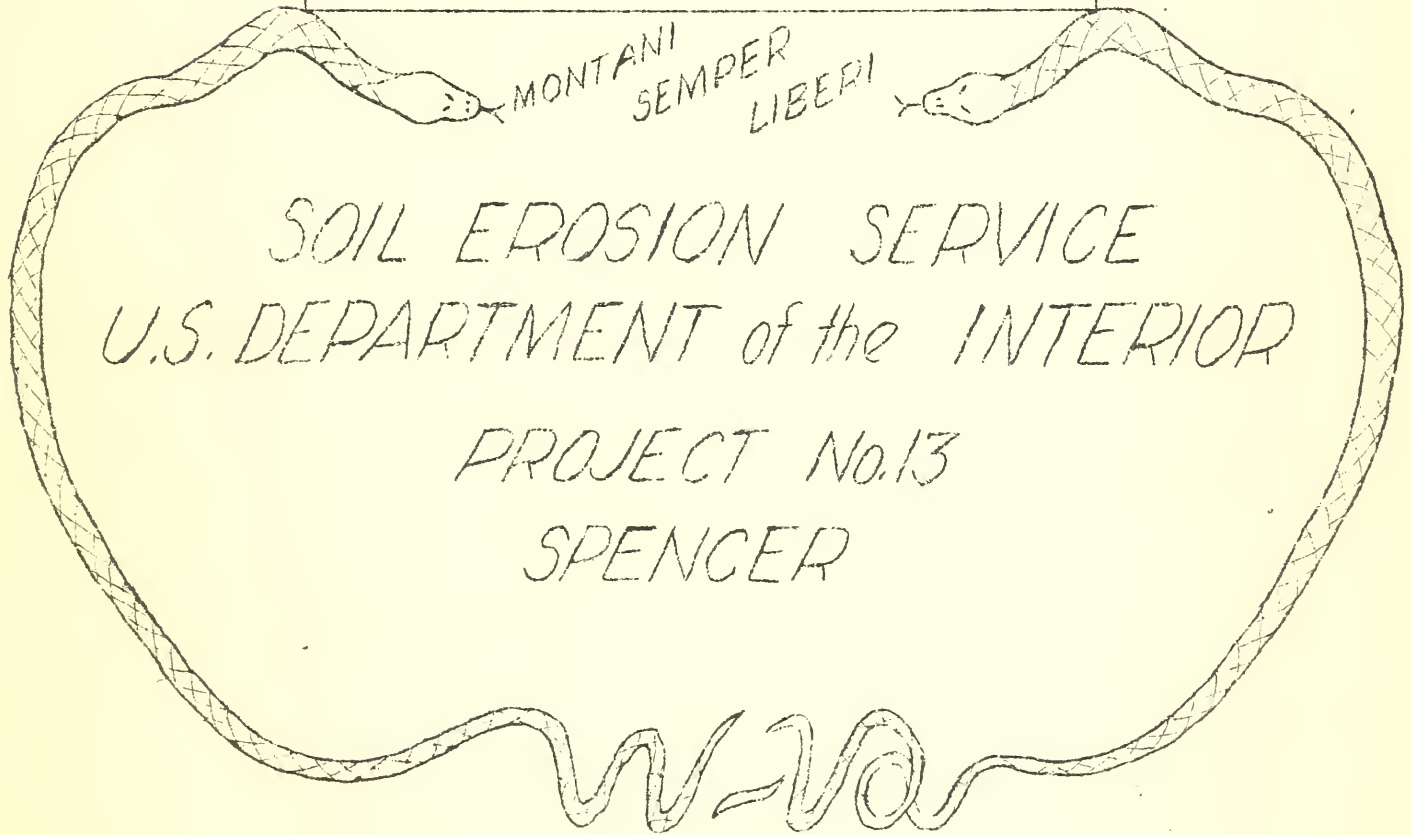
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FARM
COOPERATOR

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SOIL EROSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR
PROJECT No. 13
SPENCER

GREETINGS TO COOPERATORS

The Soil Erosion Service wishes to extend to each of you appropriate seasonal greetings and express our thanks for the splendid cooperation given our program during the past summer and fall.

As our family of cooperators grows larger it becomes increasingly more difficult for members of the staff to maintain those personal contacts which mean so much to the success of our program. We realize there is no substitute for individual and personal contacts with our cooperators but with the increase in number of cooperators we are obliged to adopt a plan whereby we can serve all cooperators alike.

On another page of this issue of The Farm Cooperator you will find a statement regarding the holding of evening meetings in the different communities of our project area.

I wish to commend this idea of community meetings to you. I believe that these meetings will furnish a fine place for the exchange of ideas about the business of farming. Of course, I am particularly interested in a discussion of subjects dealing with Soil Erosion, but you cannot help but discuss Soil Erosion if you discuss worthwhile and modern farm practices.

Personally, I would like to go a step farther and see Dad and Mother get out their old arithmetic, speller and song book and revive the good old community activities that were common a generation ago.

As a result of these community meetings we can spend time in discussing those activities pertaining to the organization and management of our farms that will clarify certain details of the proposed Soil Erosion Program as well as look into the reasons for

doing certain parts of the program.

We want you as cooperators to feel that this is your program as well as our own. We want to help you solve the problem of erosion on your farm and to this extent we are interested in any activity that will permit you to prosper and participate in a more abundant life.

Again we wish to thank you for your interest and aid in developing our present program and hope that you will feel free to help formulate the Soil Erosion program in the future.

--- M. M. Hoover, Regional Director.

* * * * *

MARKET FOR BLACK WALNUT LOGS

As you no doubt know, the Forestry Division of the Soil Erosion Project is keenly interested in building up markets for lumber and forestry products. We are not only interested in growing trees from the standpoint of what they will accomplish in controlling erosion, but also for their economic value to the farmers.

We should like to call to your attention a part of a letter recently received from a responsible company which reads as follows: "Would advise that we are, at the present time, in the market for black walnut logs, and if you are in a position to put us in touch with parties who have walnut logs to sell, will appreciate your so doing." We will be more than glad to advise with you and to help you dispose of any walnut logs that you may have. We would suggest that any or all of you who might be interested, get in touch with the Forestry Division of the Soil Erosion Service in order that we may help you take advantage of this market.

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WASHINGTON SAVED HIS SOIL

George Washington may not have been the first to practice erosion control, but he was among the first in America to acknowledge the ravages of erosion and to attempt to maintain his rich farm lands in their fertile state.

His foresight as a scientific farmer is evidenced by letters on display in the Library of Congress.

Exactly 135 years ago today -- four days before his death -- the first President wrote final instructions to his farm overseer, Mr. Anderson, listing erosion control as a major item in the plan of operations.

Washington had three farms, the "Muddy Hole Farm", the "River Farm", and the "Union Farm", and on each soil losses presented a problem. To Anderson he wrote, concerning his Muddy Hole farm:

"The washed and gullied parts of it ought to be levelled and smoothed, and as far as it can be accomplished, covered with litter, straw, weeds, corn stalks, or any other kind of vegetable rubbish, to bind together, and to prevent the earth from gullyng."

Not only did Washington realize the necessity of keeping a cover of vegetation -- he termed it "vegetable rubbish" -- on the ground, but he practiced crop rotation and other methods of sound land use, such as keeping eroded lands out of cultivation. The latter practice, along with crop rotation, is among the methods now being advanced by the Soil Erosion Service in thirty watersheds demonstration areas over the country.

Similar instructions were outlined by Mr. Washington for his River farm. Referring to Field No. 1, he directed:

"..... part is in meadow, and will remain so, and the most broken, washed and indifferent parts is to remain uncultivated, but to be harrowed and smoothed in the spring, and the worst

parts thereof (if practicable) be covered with litter, straw, weeds, or any kind of vegetable rubbish to prevent them from running into gullies."

Field No. 2 on his Union Farm, an "indifferent field, washed in some places, gullied in others, and rich in none", was to be "prevented from getting worse, and becoming such eye sores as they now are."

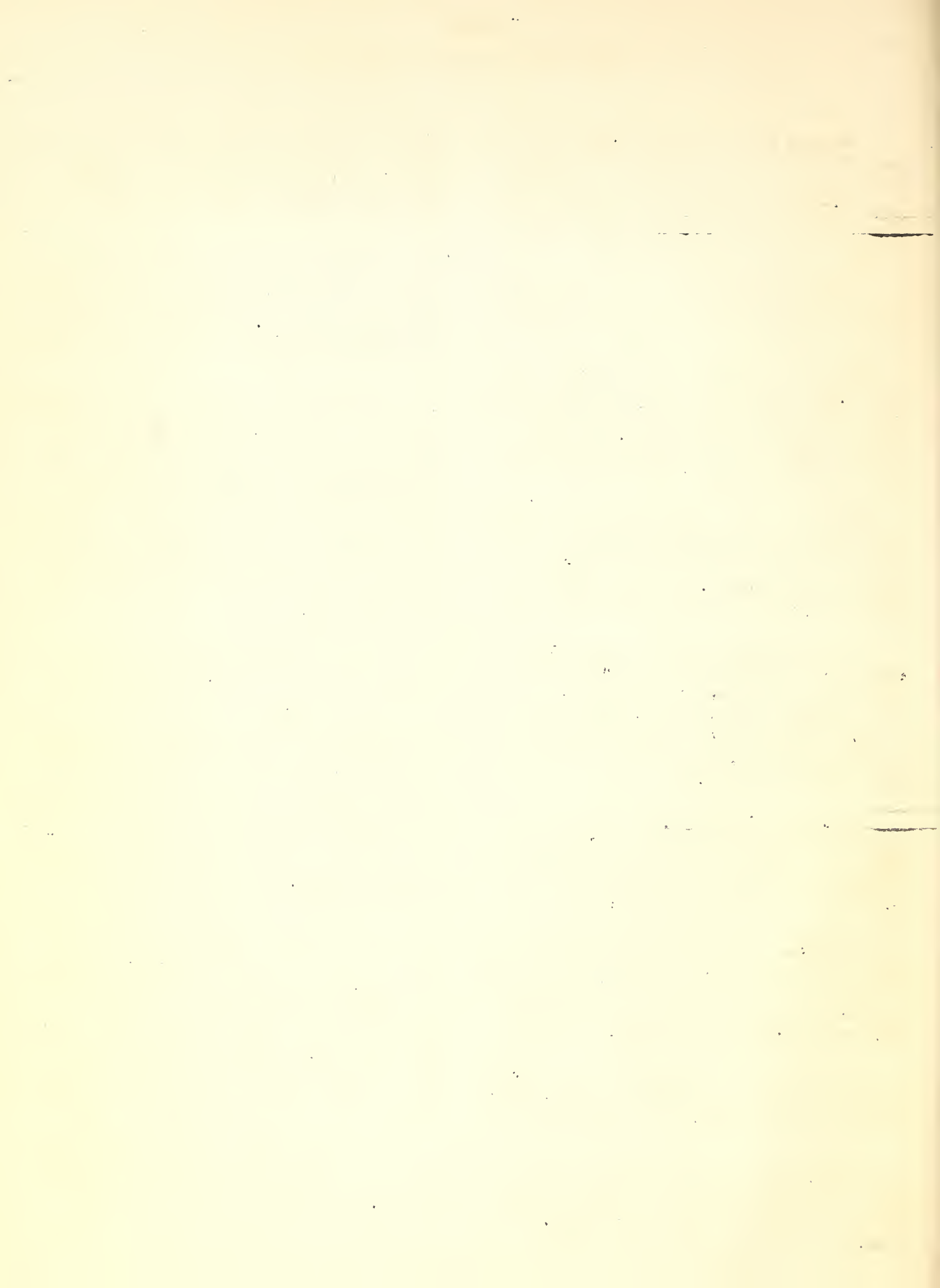
Washington's erosion control measures, while not exactly in line with the most modern methods developed and urged by the Soil Erosion Service, were fundamentally correct, according to H. H. Bennett, Director of the Service. The importance of maintaining a vegetative cover on eroding lands, he pointed out, is one of the salient points in the nation-wide erosion control program now under way.

* * * * *

PROSPEROUS FARMING DEMANDS SOIL SAVING

Any practice that tends to increase plant growth in the winter, to conserve the vegetative cover that is naturally there, to collect the water and carry it away in orderly fashion, or to stop sheet or gully erosion, will save the soil and build up the country's one natural resource, the land, according to agricultural engineers.

The farmer who produces the most from the smallest acreage is usually the most prosperous. Cover crops during the winter months, either a natural growth or some hardy winter crop, are very desirable in holding the more fertile surface soil. Burning up timber areas often causes fertile bottom land to become gullied or covered with infertile material washed from the higher land. Fall plowing is often a direct cause of soil loss, and if it is desirable, care should be exercised to prevent soil losses.



BEAUTIFICATION OF THE FARM HOME

With our general recovery program based on a back-to-the-land and general land movement, a strenuous endeavor is today being made to assist and encourage those earning wholly or partially a livelihood from the soil. Never before in the history of the world has a great nation, under the leadership of an individual, chosen by popular choice, massed its brains and money for the assistance of a more worthy cause than to help those wresting a living from the soil.

Those branches of the government thru which administration and supervision of this heroic effort is being administered, is the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Department of Agriculture, along with each individual state governmental organization cooperating. Forestry, Agriculture and Soil Erosion form a decidedly important part of the fight recovery.

Far reaching investigations thru specially appointed committees by the President, have been studying the home life of the farmer. Units of the American Country Life Association will, no doubt, play an important part in the government's plan for bringing about a more desirable country home life. As an integral part of this plan a definitely organized attempt to improve the natural surroundings of the home in which the rural people spend their lives.

Few are the farmers, cooperating with the back-to-the-farm movement, in a position financially to enter into home beautification of landscape activities on an elaborate scale. It is obvious, however, that when free technical advice and practical supervision become available there should be a noticeable improvement in the immediate vicinity of the farm home.

Few are the industrious farmers today that, when springtime approaches, feels not the characteristic urge to

beautify the home site on which he lives with installations of various decorative plant life or attractive rustic constructions such as arbors, trellises, stone walks, walls, fences, bird baths and general landscape improvements.

It is unfortunate that the country side within quite a distance of Spencer is devoid of an abundance of desirable landscaping material such as red spruce, hemlock, rhododendron, holly, azalea and mountain ash which abounds in some parts of the state. One wishing, therefore, to use native material must resort to the several pines, elms, poplars, sugar maples, dogwood and other available hardwoods. It is quite remarkable what can be done with these wild specimens when the elements of clever pruning, spraying, bud pinching and heavy fertilization has been mastered.

The young peach, apple, quince and especially cherry, when properly pruned for beauty, respond surprisingly to applications of lime and fertilization. There are so many highly desirable flowers, vines and shrubs obtainable at low cost from local nurseries that one can go a long way toward home beautifying the first season at a small cost.

It is interesting to learn from experience, how fast any seedling will grow to landscaping size when cultivated and heavily fertilized as are truck garden vegetables. It is equally interesting to note the feeling of pride that develops when a property owner beautifies his property by seeding and planting. The secret of beautiful lawn development lies in heavy seeding, lining, fertilizing and the use of trees and shrubs.

Do not fail, therefore, to remember that you substantially enhance the value of your property from landscape investments, at the same time enjoying your creation of beauty.

THE ADDRESS OF BIG CHIEF GULLY

Fellow Gullies! It is with a heavy heart that I bring you this message. I have deeply appreciated the honor you have bestowed upon me for the past decade. Some of our young members who are quite good sized today have been born during my time of office. I realize that I am aged; that my efforts have become more feeble with each of the passing years. My sides are heavily grown with brush and grass, my lower limbs are desecrated with trees and even my head and upper limbs are now becoming clogged with small brush and grass. I know my life is nearly run. I do not wish sympathy or pity. My life has been full. I have ruined 4 acres of land; I have killed 2 horses and a cow. Is there one among you who has done as much? But I have made my mistakes and it is of those I wish to speak. I will speak briefly of our allies and at length of our enemies. I hope especially that our younger members will heed some of the warnings that I will give.

It is proper that first I should classify our enemies and allies. Our first ally is runoff. Any method of cultivating land which will increase runoff is therefore an ally. Our enemies are all types of vegetation, contour cultivation, terraces, strip cropping, or anything that will reduce runoff or cover the soil so that it washes less readily. Now we have the activities of man as both an ally and an enemy. We must, however, class man as an ally. The history of our race shows that we follow man and his activities. We have never gained a strong grip on any country without man. Thus we must classify him as our ally.

A special type of man has been visiting us recently. He is from the S.E.S. The Soil Erosion Service, fellow members, is an organization of trained men that would introduce, to his brother and our ally, means of cultivation and

cropping practices that would wipe us from the face of the earth. Our only hope is that men who have been our allies for generations will not desert us now. If they do, I see the doom of our race. Do not become too alarmed at this new menace. There are doings of man that we will never understand. Although man, our ally, and man, our enemy are brothers they often act as enemies. Man our ally is distrustful of man our enemy. Therein lies the hope of our posterity.

So much for man. Now let me warn you against the neglect of cancerous growths of grass, shrubs, trees, yes, and even weeds. They may seem unimportant at the time but if let alone will grow on you until they begin to catch soil that you are trying to throw away. As they catch soil they catch seeds and before long your system will become clogged. I know that often our ally, a big heavy rain will come to your assistance and put you back in good condition again. But, don't depend upon it. I did, and three times it repaired the damage due to my negligence, but the heavy rain did not come the fourth time until it was too late. That was five years ago, but my death started then, and was due to my carelessness. I should have caved off those clumps of grass and small brushes. I didn't though. I laughed at them; I wanted them to get a little larger before I destroyed them. I even forgot them for a period and when I again remembered it was too late. But even in my death struggles it is with pride I view my torturous length and great depth. I will die knowing that what I have destroyed will never be tillable again.

Enough of warnings. In closing let me say I am proud of our record in this community. The tabulated record of the year's program is not at hand but within my memory we have ruined 1,000 acres of good land, killed 37 head of

COOPERATORS' MEETINGS

livestock, and generally depreciated the value of all the farms on which we live. It is a record of which to be proud. Thank you!

Note: Since the above address was given the following report was made:

It is the sad duty of the Committee of Gullies to report that since the last annual meeting of the Gullies, Chief Big Gully has passed on. This loss is a severe blow to our organization at this time when we have a new enemy, the S. E. S., to combat.

The Committee urges each individual gully to make every effort to establish a progress record for the year. By united efforts we may be able to discourage this new enemy. A new "Chief" will be elected at the next annual meeting.

By order of the Committee of Gullies:

--THE LAND Today and Tomorrow.

* * * * *

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

If you have general questions regarding the program of the S. E. S., send them in and we shall attempt to answer them in this column.

Q. Is the farmer who signs an agreement required to furnish, during the next five years, the same amount of lime and fertilizer which the Government furnishes him?

A. The Cooperating farmer is not required to furnish any lime or fertilizer whatsoever.

Q. Does an agreement with the Soil Erosion Service prevent a farmer from selling his farm if he wishes to do so?

A. It does not. Article 18 of the agreement specifies that when the co-operator ceases to have any legal relationship to the land, he is no longer bound by the agreement.

Members of the Soil Erosion Service have been interested in working as closely as possible with all co-operators. It has been impossible to make a visit with each co-operator as often as was thought necessary for the good of the program.

In order to partially solve this problem it was decided to hold a series of meetings with co-operators where there was interest enough to organize and carry out a program. There have been about 10 meetings held so far. At these meetings organizations were formed consisting of a chairman and a program committee. In most of these meetings a great deal of interest was shown. The farmers present felt that it would be very much worthwhile to meet together once a month and discuss their problems.

The Soil Erosion Service stands ready and willing to help organize such meetings. After the organization has been made the co-operators may feel perfectly free to call on any member of the staff when they feel will be best able to help them with the program at hand. It is entirely a matter of extending our service and there is not a man connected with our work who will not be willing to work evenings, if it will mean helping the farmer to better control erosion on his farm. We are interested in meeting with the farmers, getting their ideas and suggestions on how to better do the work at hand in their respective communities. It will give the farmers a chance to get together and swap ideas and cannot help but be of tremendous value in improving the agricultural practices in the area. If there is any group of farmers in the area that wish to organize a meeting of this nature, and one has not already been called, they should get in touch with our office at once. We are here to serve and one or two evenings devoted to this type of work each week will be freely given.

The only true success is deserved success.

NEW COOPERATORS

Elizabeth, W. Va.

December 1, 1934.

The work of contacting new farmers and arranging satisfactory cooperative agreements has been progressing rapidly since it was resumed on November 1st.

As has been stated before in these columns, farmers are being visited in the order in which their invitation cards were received and, if you have not been called upon as yet, you will, no doubt, be visited by one of our agronomists in the near future.

To date, thirty-four farmers owning a total of 4,020 acres, have signed agreements and a large number of contracts are nearing completion. Upon these farms the Government has agreed to do the following: Planting new trees on 240 acres; furnish lime, fertilizer and seed to treat 328 acres pasture and 140 acres meadow; seed for 288 additional acres pasture and 287 additional acres meadow; treatment of 438 gullies. Below is given a list of farmers who have signed agreements since November 1st.

H. Dale Bartlett	Clara Full
Fred Carpenter	Ollie B. Criss
W. H. Hersman	C. E. Cross
H. O. Moss	B. H. Showalter
T. E. Ward	O. W. Coplin
T. L. Bartlett	N. G. Conant
E. E. Cummings	Orland Brown
O. E. Carpenter	H. G. Indrick
A. W. Ball	R. S. Daniell
Lois Hoge	Virgil Full
J. M. White	C. H. Bungarner
Thomas B. Harris	Simon Cline
J. A. White	Herbert Ashley
J. H. Stutler	Stephen Starcher
A. E. Moore	B. L. Wilson
S. T. Tanner	W. W. Ayler
Wirt D. Lee	Fred D. Ball

U. S. Dept. of the Interior,
Soil Erosion Service,
Spencer, W. Va.

Dear Sirs:

Here's hoping that you enjoyed your Thanksgiving turkey. I also wish to extend to you my best wishes for a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I enjoyed the meeting of the Soil Erosion committee held at Lynn Camp very much and hope that I shall be able to attend other meetings held around in this neighborhood. I think that the work that you are doing for this section of the state is of inestimable value for the farmers living in this vicinity.

I wish to thank you for the hearty cooperation that you have always shown me in the past and to commend you upon the fine work that you are doing for the farmers.

Wishing you the best of success in the carrying out of your program during the succeeding twelve months period, I am

Yours for a successful
farm program,

J. E. Ray.

The above is an exact copy of a letter received from Mr. Ray. The enthusiasm and appreciation shown by the cooperators for the work we are trying to do is gratifying indeed.

Somebody said it couldn't be done -
But he with a chuckle replied -
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be
one,
One wouldn't say so till he tried.

So he buckled right in with a bit of a
grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the
thing,
That couldn't be done and he did it.

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Spencer, West Virginia

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